



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:45 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - April 3, 2002

- C ***In the West***, hot, dry weather in ***southern California and the Southwest*** continues to promote spring fieldwork and the growth of irrigated crops. However, moisture reserves are unfavorably low throughout the region, and rain is needed for winter grain development in the ***Pacific Northwest***.
- C ***On the Plains***, unseasonably cool weather continues throughout ***primary hard red winter wheat areas***. Single-digit lows were recorded again this morning across ***Montana***, with temperatures falling below freezing as far south as ***West Texas***, temporarily slowing crop growth rates and lowering moisture demands.
- C ***In the Corn Belt***, showers are ending the ***Ohio Valley***, as a cold front pushes towards the ***Atlantic Coast***. Mild, dry weather prevails elsewhere.
- C ***In the South***, scattered showers continue in ***Southeast***, and could bring localized relief to the ***mid-Atlantic region***.

Outlook: Mostly dry weather will dominate the Nation through the remainder of the week, although showers are forecast to linger over ***central and southern Florida***. Cool weather will prevail over the ***Northeast***, including much of the ***Corn Belt***, limiting early crop development. Hot weather will persist over the ***Southwest***, with gradual warming occurring in the ***southern Plains*** by week's end. Over the weekend, very heavy rain could develop across ***eastern Texas and the Delta***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 8-12 depicts near- to above-normal temperatures throughout the Nation. Wet weather is expected along the ***northern Pacific Coast*** and across much of ***the Southeast***, including the ***Delta***, the ***Carolinas and Georgia***, and the ***Florida Peninsula***. Drier-than-normal weather is forecast to continue in the ***Great Plains*** and ***mid-Atlantic region***, worsening local drought situations.

Contact: Mark Brusberg, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-3508)